

11 Days/10 Nights
Departs Daily



CULINARY HIGHLIGHTS OF ITALY (BY RAIL) VENICE - BOLOGNA - FLORENCE - ROME

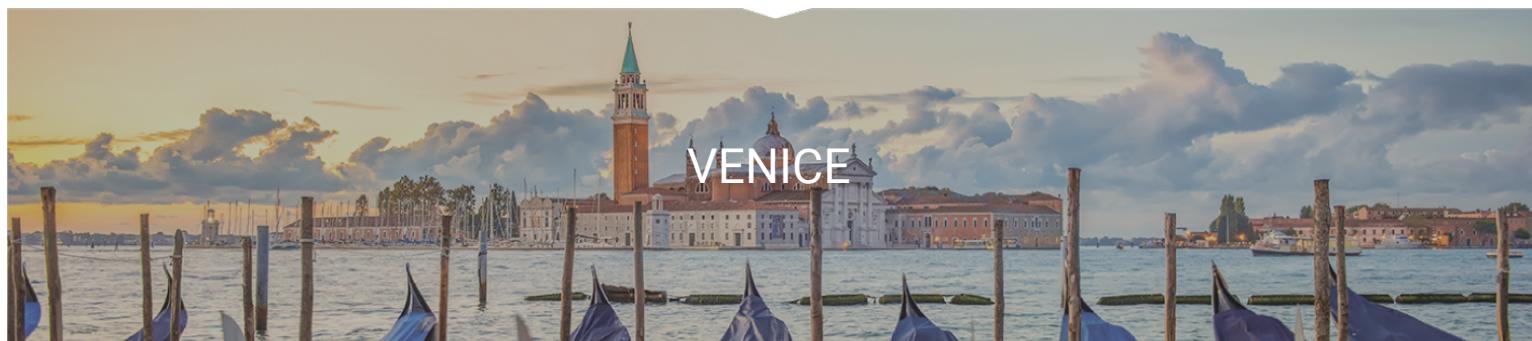
Savor all the culinary delights with a whirlwind tour of Italy's most alluring cities. This is a dream for Italian foodies including a hands on cooking class, sampling regional specialties including olive oil and cheeses, and tasting world class wines. In addition, there will be dinners in renowned restaurants offering the finest of traditional Italian cuisine.

ACCOMMODATIONS

2 Nights Venice | 2 Nights Bologna | 3 Nights Florence
3 Nights Rome

INCLUSIONS

- Venice Ristorante Carpaccio One 3 Course Dinner
- Private Emilia Romagna`s Food Excellencies Tour from Bologna 8 Hours
- Florence Ristorante Trattoria Angiolino Ai 13 Arrosti One 3 course Dinner
- Rome Il Piccolo Mondo Restaurant One 3 course Dinner
- Daily Breakfast
- Private Gondola Ride with Appetizers 30 Minutes
- Small Group Chianti Tour with Light Lunch and Wine Tasting from Florence 8 Hours
- Small Group Morning Cooking Class at Gianni and Cesare`s Studio with Lunch 10:00am 5.5 Hours
- Private Arrival & Departure Transfers Per City



Venice, the capital of northern Italy's Veneto region, is uniquely built with over 100 small islands in a large lagoon separated with canals, linked by bridges and with no roads! Grand palaces, canals and bridges are on the sightseeing list, but allocate some time to explore. Let your sense of adventure kick in as you discover the home of Marco Polo. Enjoy a sightseeing tour of Venice by private motor launch along the Grand Canal where you'll admire wide ranging architectural styles embracing the Byzantine, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque periods. Avanti arranges authentic experiences like a private morning market tour followed by a cooking lesson where you'll choose a meat or a fish menu. Enjoy a private half day excursion in the Venetian lagoon where you will visit the islands of Murano, known for the glass blowing furnaces, and Burano famous for the laces.

Day 1 ARRIVE VENICE:

Arrive at Venice Airport. After clearing customs, meet your driver for a private transfer to your centrally located hotel. The remainder of the day is at your leisure. Explore your surroundings or just relax, and dinner will be on your own this evening.



Private Transfer Venice Airport to Venice hotel



Venice - Ruzzini Palace Hotel - Standard

2 Nights

Style: Boutique **Location:** Saint Marks Square

Nearby Attractions: Saint Marks Square, Doge's Palace, Bridge of Sighs, Rialto Bridge, Ca' d'Oro

The Ruzzini Palace Hotel is set in Campo Santo Maria Formosa, one of Venice's largest and oldest squares. Guests of the Ruzzini Palace Hotel will experience a setting that celebrates the aristocratic past of Venice, while also enjoying modern luxury and charm. The Ruzzini Palace Hotel is set in Campo Santo Maria Formosa, one of Venice's largest and oldest squares.

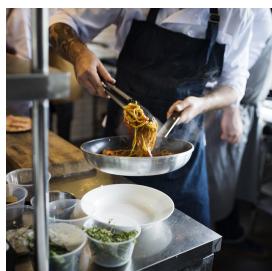
Day 2 VENICE:

Today is free to explore this fascinating city. Start at Piazza San Marco, Venice's most recognizable square. Near by is St Mark's Basilica; a visually stunning cathedral, and arguably the city's top attraction. Take a tour of the Doges Palace and wander through the maze like fortress that includes the secret rooms and even a prison. For art lovers, the interactive Leonardo Da Vinci Museum is worth a visit, as well as the Peggy Guggenheim Collection of 20th century art. Traipse across the Grand Canal on the iconic Rialto Bridge. Venice is also a great walking city with narrow streets and footbridges. Get lost (or at least away from the crowds) in some of their neighborhoods like the Jewish Ghetto, and Castello, where the locals dine and shop. Escape the mainland by taking the Vaporetto to Murano, known for their colorful hand blown glass, and/or Murano; still famous for their handmade lace and their striking colorful houses. Both islands are a nice option for coffee, lunch, or the Venetian's drink of choice, the Aperol spritz. At 5:30pm, you'll have a Private Gondola Ride with appetizers and prosecco. You can take the Vaporetto to San Toma (# 1 or 2), and then just a short walk from there. The Concierge at your hotel will be able to help you with directions to the station. Embarking from San Tom Gondola pier, your gondola starts from the pier on the Grand Canal and enters to discover the hidden wonders of this route. Along the Rio San Polo you can admire buildings and residential houses in different architectural styles. While on board you will get a tray with taste of cicchetti, typical Venetian canapes and a bottle of Prosecco to taste during the itinerary. Crossing the quiet inner canals, you will reach the Grand Canal again, contemplating typical Venetian palaces in Gothic and Renaissance styles as Palazzo Barbaro and Palazzo Corner Spinelli. Finally catch a glimpse of the famous Rialto Bridge at the end of the ride. This evening, enjoy dinner at the iconic Ristorante Carpaccio. Tucked away from the crowds of St Mark's Square, the perfect ambiance to end your stay in Venice.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Venice - Ristorante Carpaccio - One 3-Course Dinner

Tour Type: Meal



Private Gondola Ride with Appetizers - 30 Minutes

Duration: 30 Minutes **Category:** Authentic/Local, Food And Drink, Eco/Nature **Tour Type:** Boat Tour
Embark from San Tom Gondola pier, in the Dorsoduro area, a few steps far from the famous Frari Church. The gondola starts from the pier on the Grand Canal and enters to discover the hidden wonders of this route.

Day 3 VENICE TO BOLOGNA:

After a leisurely breakfast, you'll have a private transfer to the rail station for your short 90 minute train ride to Bologna. Upon arrival, meet your driver for a private transfer to your hotel. The remainder of the day is free for exploring and dinner will be on your own this evening.

(Breakfast)

Private Transfer - Venice Hotel to Venice S Lucia Rail Station - Day

Duration: 1 hr 30 min





A gorgeous historical city in northern Italy, Bologna is famous for its fine cuisine. It is the site of the oldest university in the western world and has a lively student population. The ambiance of Bologna spotlights architecture with terracotta roofed buildings, theater and nightlife. There is no better place to try the bolognese ragu than here, at its birthplace in the heart of Emilia Romagna. Regardless if you are a sports cars aficionado or not, a day trip down to Maranello at the Ferrari museum will definitely be a unique experience.

Day 3 BOLOGNA:



Private Transfer - Bologna Rail Station to Bologna Hotel - Day



Bologna - Art Hotel Corona D`Oro - Classic

2 Nights

Style: Boutique, Traditional **Location:** Bologna Historical Center

Nearby Attractions: La Macchina del Tempo Towers of Bologna Palazzo del Podesta Mercato Di Mezzo In the heart of Bologna, just a few steps away from the Two Towers, sits the Hotel Corona D'Oro. Built in the 13th century, it once belonged to the powerful Azzoguidi family. Today, it has been renovated and turned into a boutique hotel, but has kept some of the elements of the original building - the medieval portico and the paneled ceilings covered in renaissance frescos are distinguishing features.

Day 4 BOLOGNA:

After breakfast, an early start as you meet your guide for a Private Emilia Romagna's Food Excellencies Culinary Tour. Emilia Romagna is known in Italy as the Fat, the Rich, and the Wise. The Fat, because of the local delicious and rich dishes such as lasagna, tortellini, agnolotti to name just a few. The Rich, due to the many flourishing industries such as sports cars, agricultural machinery, ceramic tiles and bathroom accessories factories. The Wise because it boasts one of the oldest Universities in Europe. The tour will concentrate on the discovery of the traditional local food specialties. Your driving English speaking escort, who is passionate about good food, will take you to visit local producers of Lambrusco wine, Parmigiano cheese, and Balsamic vinegar. In each of these premises you will be led through the stages of preparation of these delicacies so that you will appreciate the skill and the time and the patience it takes to obtain an excellent product. Of course you will also taste each of these gems of the Italian food tradition. The tour will also include lunch with wine in one of the excellent local restaurants so that you can taste the delicious regional cuisine. The remainder of the afternoon is free to explore and dinner will be on your own this evening.

(Breakfast)



Private Emilia Romagna`s Food Excellencies Tour from Bologna - 8 Hours

Duration: 8 Hours **Category:** Food And Drink **Tour Type:** Car/Bus Tour

Your English speaking driving escort will take you to visit local producers of Lambrusco and Pignoletto wines, Parmigiano cheese, Prosciutto, and balsamic vinegar. In each of these premises, you will be led through the stages of preparation of these delicacies so that you will appreciate the skill, the time and the patience it takes to obtain an excellent product.

Day 5 BOLOGNA TO FLORENCE:

After breakfast, meet your driver in the lobby for your private transfer to the rail station for the short 50 minute train journey to Florence. Upon arriving at Santa Maria Novella station, meet your driver for the private transfer to your hotel. The remainder of the day is free to explore your surroundings, and dinner will be on your own this evening.

(Breakfast)



Private Transfer - Bologna Hotel to Bologna Rail Station - Day



Florence is the capital city of Italy's Tuscany region and is known as the "cradle of the Renaissance" for at this time, artists flocked to the city seeking a supportive environment for their creative endeavors. At present day, it offers visitors the best of Renaissance era museums, gardens and architecture. Let Avanti book a half day tour of the highlights with a private vehicle, a driver and an English speaking guide. Challenge yourself to a wine tasting and bike tour (using a hybrid 27 speed) covering easy, scenic roads with a stop at a 12th century castle and Chianti region winery. Learn how to cook a nice Tuscan meal first stopping at Central Market for groceries, then at a home like setting you'll have the expert guidance of the Chefs to create your meal and finally eat what you have prepared.

Day 5 FLORENCE:



Private Transfer - S.M. Novella Rail Station to Florence Hotel - Day

Duration: 2 hr



Florence - Hotel Santa Maria Novella - Superior

3 Nights

Style: Luxury, Traditional Location: Piazza Santa Maria Novella area

Nearby Attractions: Santa Maria Novella, Santa Maria Maggiore, Rucellai Palace, Strozzi Palace, Florence Baptistry

In an ancient building rich in art and history, the Hotel Santa Maria Novella is brimming with charm and elegance. It is ideally located in one of the most beautiful squares in the city, perfect for those arriving by train. Furnished in a classic style with lacquered wood paneling, French furniture, and antique items, the Santa Maria Novella is a top choice for those seeking true Florentine style.

Day 6 FLORENCE:

After breakfast, get ready for an in depth visit into the heart of Tuscany to experience two excellencies of this lovely region. Your English speaking driving escort will take you to Greve, considered to be the heart of the Chianti Region. This small town is also the home of the famous Falorni Butchery belonging to a local family specialized in some of the top local delicacies such as pecorino cheese, salame, prosciutto and other local excellencies. After some time at your disposal in Greve, your escort will take you to Corzano and Paterno farmhouse. The Farm covers 345 acres and is dedicated to the production of the finest quality wines, olive oil and pecorino (yew's milk cheese). After the visit of the cellars and cheese factory you will enjoy a light lunch based on wine and cheese tasting (3 wines + 4 cheeses, Tuscan bread, jam and honey), two types of extra virgin olive oil and freshly home made dessert. The tour will then continue with a final stop at Badia a Passignano, a historic abbey dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel. Returning to your hotel, dinner will be on your own this evening.

(Breakfast, Lunch)



Small Group Chianti Tour with Light Lunch and Wine Tasting from Florence - 8 Hours

Duration: 8 Hours Category: Food And Drink Tour Type: Car/Bus Tour

A pleasant drive through gently rolling hills takes you to Greve, a delightful borough so perfectly nestled in the scenery as to deserve the title of Gate of Chianti, where some time at leisure gives you the chance to browse the center and enjoy its relaxed rhythm of life.

Day 7 FLORENCE:

After breakfast, the day is at your leisure to explore. For art lovers, "must" stops include the Academia and Uffizi Gallery. To avoid disappointment (and long lines) it is a good idea to make reservations with Avanti before departing the US. Two churches worth a visit are the Duomo and Ognissanti, the final resting place of Botticelli. For magnificent views, cross the Arno River to Pitti Palace. Piazza Santo Spirito, in the center of the artisan quarter is not to be missed and a good choice for lunch. If shopping is on your agenda, stop at the Mercato Centrale, especially for leather goods like jackets, shoes and gloves. The renowned Ponte Vecchio connects the Uffizi to Pitti Palace and also provides great photo opportunities. And don't forget to rub the snout of "Il Porcellino" for good luck, the wild boar statue in front of Mercato Nuovo. Dinner this evening will be at Restaurant Buca Mario. Serving traditional Tuscan fare; it's conveniently located between the rail station and the Arno River.

(Breakfast, Dinner)



Florence - Ristorante Trattoria Angiolino-Ai 13 Arrosti - One 3-course Dinner

Category: Food and Drink *Tour Type:* Meal

Angiolino serves typical Tuscan dishes and is located near the Church of the Holy Spirit in Oltrarno. It has a pleasant old Florentine tavern atmosphere and attentive service.

Day 8 FLORENCE TO ROME:

After a leisurely breakfast, meet your driver in the lobby for a private transfer to the rail station. After a pleasant 90 minute train ride, arrive in Rome. Your private driver awaits you for the transfer to your centrally located hotel. After checking in, relax or explore the Eternal City. You'll have an unlimited number of attractions to choose including the Colosseum, Vatican City, Pantheon, Spanish Steps, and the Forum. Or just wander down fashionable Via Veneto. Dinner will be on your own this evening.

(Breakfast)



Private Transfer - Florence Hotel to S.M. Novella Rail Station - Day

Duration: 3 hr



Rome is one of the world's most romantic and historically important cities going back almost 3,000 years. This timeless capital of Italy is a collection of piazzas, historic sites and open air markets and famous landmarks like the Forum, the Colosseum, Vatican City, and Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel masterpiece. Avanti strives to provide authentic and personalized experiences, including city tours, cooking classes, local family dinners, and helps you discover the cultures and cuisines of this beautiful boot. A Private Borghese Gallery Tour gives you an inside view of the most precious pearls of Roman Art, the Borghese Gallery that holds treasures that are not normally seen on tours. After the visit, you will be provided with a picnic basket containing a selection local fare: salami and cheese, bread, fruit salad, Tiramisu and drinks.

Day 8 ROME:



Private Transfer - Termini Rail Station to Rome Hotel

Duration: 2 hr 30 min



Rome - Marcella Royal Hotel - Standard

3 Nights 

Style: Traditional **Location:** Via Veneto area

Nearby Attractions: Via Veneto, Villa Borghese Park, Piazza Barberini, Trevi Fountain, Spanish Steps
The Marcella Royal Hotel is a boutique hotel conveniently situated directly on Via Flavia, in an affluent district. This privileged and central location means you will be within walking distance of the city's numerous sights and attractions, including Via Veneto, the Spanish Steps, Via Nazionale, Barberini, and more. A charming hotel with great service and a rooftop terrace offering perhaps the most extraordinary views in all of Rome.

Day 9 ROME:

After breakfast, enjoy a cooking class at Gianni and Cesare's Studio which is located alongside the Tiber River in the historical center. Roll up your sleeves and get ready to get your hands dirty with some flour! You'll learn how to mix egg and flour to make the perfect dough for home made pasta. Your next lesson will be to cook an antipasto, plus 2 different types of pasta from scratch (an egg based dough and a water and semolina dough) along with a unique perfectly paired sauce for each pasta. We'll end our lesson by creating a delicious dessert. And now the best part; You'll enjoy the fruits of your labor, accompanied by local wines, starting with a bubbly prosecco, and a white and red wine to compliment the meal. After lunch, you may want to stroll through some of Rome's interesting neighborhoods before returning to your hotel.

(Breakfast, Lunch)



Small Group Morning Cooking Class at Gianni and Cesare's Studio with Lunch 10:00am 5.5 Hours

Duration: 5 Hours 30 Minutes **Category:** Food and Drink **Tour Type:** Classes Workshops

Gianni or Cesare meet guests at their studio located right on the Tiber River in the historical center. Roll up your sleeves and get ready to get dirty with some flour!

Day 10 ROME:

Today is free for independent sightseeing. Where to begin? In no particular order, Vatican City, which includes St Peters Basilica, the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel, The Roman Colosseum, site of the gladiator games, and the Roman Forum, a series of structures when Rome's power was at its zenith. To avoid disappointment if these are on your agenda, best to make reservations with Avanti in advance (skip the line). If the weather is nice, the sprawling gardens of Villa Borghese are worth a stroll. And of course the extremely popular landmarks; the Trevi Fountain and Spanish Steps. Walk along the fashionable and trendy Via Veneto, replete with Italy's famous designer boutiques. Make sure you stop at a cafe for a coffee and gelato, but save room for dinner this evening at Il Piccolo Mondo. Il Piccolo Mondo is the ideal setting for a sophisticated and yet relaxing dinner. Back in the day, many stars of the dolce vita and entertainment chose this restaurant to eat and as a rendezvous place. Among them were Brigitte Bardot, Ronald Reagan, and Clint Eastwood. Enjoy a three course meal at a historical restaurant where seasonal products, organic and farm to table, high quality ingredients are used to create a memorable meal. After dining, the return to your hotel is on your own.

(Breakfast, Dinner)



Rome - Il Piccolo Mondo Restaurant - One 3-course Dinner

Category: Food and Drink **Tour Type:** Meal

Enjoy a three course meal at a historical restaurant where seasonal products, organic and farm to table, high quality ingredients, local fish and prime cuts of meat are the backbone of our restaurant.

Day 11 DEPART ROME:

After breakfast, meet your driver in the lobby for your transfer to Fiumicino Airport and your return flight home, fondly reminiscing of your culinary experiences.

(Breakfast)



Private Transfer - Rome Hotel to Fiumicino Airport

Duration: 30 Min

*** Itinerary and inclusions are subject to change*